

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (previously presented) An intervertebral implant comprising a central axis, an upper section, suitable for laying onto the base plate of a vertebral body lying above, and a lower section suitable for laying onto the cover plate of a vertebral body lying below, wherein:

the upper section has a ventral side area, a dorsal side area, two lateral side areas, a top apposition surface, and a bottom surface;

the lower section has a ventral side area, a dorsal side area, two lateral side areas, a bottom apposition surface, and a top surface; and

the two sections are moveable in relation to each other via two joints arranged between the two sections, wherein:

each of the joints has a swivel axle and the two swivel axles are arranged transversely or perpendicular to each other;

the two joints comprise an upper joint element connected with the upper section, a central joint element, and a lower joint element connected with the lower section;

the central joint section is connected with the lower joint section by means of at least one axle coaxial to the swivel axle and rotating around the swivel axle and with the upper joint section by means of at least one axle coaxial to the swivel axle and rotating around the swivel axle;

a means is provided that is suitable for causing temporary blocking of the mobility of the two sections around the joint,

whereby that the means comprises an insert with a lower end and an upper end and a depression in the surfaces at each of the two sections, which are open on the ventral side areas, and

that the insert with its ends can be inserted into each of the depressions.

2. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the central joint element comprises a frame.

3. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the central joint element is in the form of a cross.

4. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the central joint element is in the form of an angle.

5. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the means keeps the two sections, measured at their ventral side areas, at a fixed distance from each other.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the means can be attached to the two ventral side areas of the two sections.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the depressions are dovetail guides and the ends on the insert are arranged complementary to these dovetail guides.

10. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 9, wherein the dovetail guides are tapered from the ventral side areas towards the dorsal side areas.

11. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the means comprises two insert pieces parallel to the lateral side surfaces, which can be attached to the surfaces facing each other.

12. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the insert can be attached to one of the two sections by means of a screw in a way that can be released.

13. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 1, wherein the upper and the lower sections each comprises at least two drill holes running through from the ventral side areas to the apposition surfaces with longitudinal axes for receiving bone fixation devices.

14. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 13, wherein the longitudinal axes of the drill holes make an angle γ with the central axis.

15. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 14, wherein the angle γ lies in a range between 20 degrees and 65 degrees.

16. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 13, wherein the longitudinal axes of the drill holes as seen from the ventral side areas diverge from the inner surfaces against the apposition surfaces.

17. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 13, wherein the drill holes are conically tapered towards the apposition surfaces.

18. (previously presented) The intervertebral implant according to claim 13, wherein the drill holes have an internal thread.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)